



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

October 4, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HART
COMMUNITY HOMES, INCORPORATED – PREWITT AND BRADY
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Prewitt and Brady Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Hart Community Homes, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Prewitt and Brady Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Prewitt Group Home was providing services for three DCFS children. Brady Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children.

Prewitt and Brady Group Homes are located in Orange County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews

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with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency.

Since Brady Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at this time, the monitoring review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes only a facility inspection.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement.

Prewitt Group Home needs to paint or clean the exterior of the house, repair the block wall, maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication and provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Brady Group Home does not have any facility and environment or safety deficiencies noted. A corrective action plan for this Group Home is not necessary at this time.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:jdh

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
William Hart, Executive Director, Hart Community Homes, Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Hart Community Homes, Incorporated
Prewitt Group Home
Orange, California 92865
License Number: 306001431
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Prewitt Group Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are adequately landscaped. However, the exterior of the Group Home is worn and soiled. The block wall fence on the east side of the house is cracked in several places.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, a DVD player, books and a computer with a variety of programs.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Hart Community Homes management:

- a. Clean or paint the exterior of the house.**
- b. Repair the block wall fence.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications that they are taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

2. Hart Community Homes management maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Interviews with children****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treat them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send

and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The children spend their allowances as they choose. However, one child was not provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. Hart Community Homes management provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

**Hart Community Homes, Incorporated
Brady Group Home
Orange, California 92865
License Number: 306001481
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Brady Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, a DVD player, books and a computer with a variety of programs.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

July 18, 2007

County of Los Angeles Department of Auditor-Controller,

In response to the recommendations made by the group home monitor, Hart Community Homes has made or scheduled the following changes:

Facility and Environment:

- The exterior of the house will be painted by August 1, 2007. Once the house is painted, weekly spot checks will be done by the Morning Staff to ensure that there are no marks, tags, or graffiti in or around the facility. If any are found, the Staff will report it to the Administrator immediately. The Administrator will be responsible for making sure that these checks are done and that any repairs will be called in to the appropriate people.
- The brick wall on the side of the house was repaired on June 15, 2007. Staff will be trained to make sure that weekly inspections are done to ensure that the integrity of the walls on the outside perimeter is stable. The Administrator will be responsible for making sure that these checks are done.

Psychotropic Medication:

- Psychotropic Medication Consent forms have been submitted to and completed by the Psychiatrist, Dr. Daniel Chueh, on June 13, 2007. Tim Tademey and Kenny Lessley's PMAs have been submitted to the court and have been approved as of this writing however, Kenny Lessley's prescription for Restoril has been questioned by the court and is awaiting Dr. Chueh's response. The follow up from the Psychiatrist's office has been extremely slow despite the numerous attempts of the group home to speed up the process. The Case Manager will be responsible for making sure that the paperwork is up to date and in compliance with monthly reviews. The Director will make sure that all paperwork is completed on time.

Clothing and Allowance:

- Staff and House Manager have been trained by the director that Los Angeles County clients receive a minimum of \$7.00 in weekly allowance. The Director will be responsible for reviewing the Allowance Logs weekly.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Hart Community Homes strives to maintain the best possible environment for our clients.

Sincerely,


Jim de Guzman
Case Manager